(b) the number of vacancies of judges lying vacant out of the total sanctioned posts as on December 31, 1995, Court-wise;

(c) the number of vacant posts filled up out of them upto May, 1996, and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to fill up the remaining vacant posts, Court-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). The requisite information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The process of consultation among the concerned Constitutional authorities for filling up the existing vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and various High Courts is on.

STATEMENT

S. No	High Court	Sanctioned Strength (As on 31.12.1995)	Vacancies	Appointments made during 1.1.96 to 30.5.96
1.	Allahabad	71	4	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	36	-	-
3.	Bombay	54	13	12
4	Calcutta	48	6	-
5.	Delhi	31	3	2
6	Gauhati	17	3	4
7.	Gujarat	32	5	-
8	Himachal Pradesh	8	1	-
9	Jammu & Kashmir	11	1	-
10.	Karnataka	34	-	-
11	Kerala	25	7	9
12	Madhya Pradesh	31	7	4
13.	Madras	29	9	5
14.	Orissa	15	7	4
15	Patna	37	5	5
16.	Punjab & Haryana	37	8	7
17	Rajasthan	26	2	8
18.	Sikkim	3	1	-
	Total	545	82	63
II	Supreme Court	26	3	2

[English]

Investment Protection Agreement with Thailand

342. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for signing an investment protection agreement with Thailand is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The process of Negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) with the government of Thailand has been initiated.

(b) Negotiations on BIPA will be based on the Indian Model Text which includes, inter alia, protection of investments of either country in the other country, Most Favored Nation Treatment in respect of investments and investors, National Treatment for investments, settlement of investment disputes through international arbitration, compensation in case of expropriation/nationalisation and facility for repatriation of returns etc.

(c) Signing of this Agreement will depend on successful conclusion of negotiations with the Government of Thailand.

[Translation]

Outstanding Income Tax

343. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of income tax payers in the country against whom an amount of Rs 5 lakh or more is outstanding, State-wise;

(b) the period since when the said amount is outstanding and the total amount involve therein,

(c) the reasons for not recovering the said amount; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The desired information is not available. However, the following information relating